



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6157

January Session, 2011

* ____HB06157FIN__040711__ *

AN ACT CONCERNING STATE FORESTRY PROGRAMS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 23-20 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall administer
4 the statutes relating to forestry and the protection of forests. The
5 commissioner may: [employ] (1) Employ such field and office
6 assistants as may be necessary for the execution of his or her duties, [. The commissioner may,] (2) from time to time, publish the forestry
7 laws of the state and other literature of general interest and practical
8 value pertaining to forestry, [. The commissioner may] (3) enter into
9 cooperation with departments of the federal government for the
10 promotion of forest resource management and protection within the
11 state, [. The commissioner may,] and (4) with the assistance of the State
12 Forester, develop and administer plans for the protection and
13 management of publicly owned woodlands. Such plans shall include,
14 but not be limited to, proposals for the establishment of forest
15 plantations and the marketing of forest products.
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17 (b) Not later than January 10, 2010, the commissioner shall apply to
18 have publicly owned woodlands or products from such woodlands
19 certified or licensed under one or more of the following, provided the
20 commissioner uses private funding from gifts, donations or bequests,

21 as authorized in this section, for the cost of all such applications: (1)
22 The Sustainable Forestry Initiative Program, (2) the American Tree
23 Farm System, (3) the Canadian Standards Association's Sustainable
24 Management System Standards, (4) the Finnish Standard, (5) the Forest
25 Stewardship Council, (6) the Pan-European Forest Certification
26 Program, (7) the Swedish Standards, (8) the United Kingdom
27 Woodland Assurance Scheme, (9) the Smart Wood Program, as
28 administered by the Rainforest Alliance, or (10) any other programs
29 deemed necessary, as determined by the commissioner. The
30 commissioner shall implement any sustainable forestry practice
31 necessary for such certification or licensure. The commissioner may
32 accept, on behalf of the Department of Environmental Protection, any
33 gifts, donations or bequests for the purposes of applying for and
34 obtaining such certification or licensure.

35 (c) (1) The commissioner may harvest forest products from
36 woodlands owned by the state and take such other measures as [he or
37 she] the commissioner deems necessary for [their] the efficient
38 management and protection [,] of such woodlands and may sell wood,
39 timber and other products from any state woodlands whenever [he or
40 she] the commissioner deems such sales desirable and may develop
41 recreational facilities in the woodlands managed by the Department of
42 Environmental Protection. The commissioner shall charge no less than
43 ten dollars per cord for any such wood or timber sold as fuel.

44 (2) There is established an account to be known as the "timber
45 harvesting revolving account" which shall be a separate, nonlapsing
46 account within the General Fund. Proceeds from the harvest of timber
47 from state forests and state wildlife management areas shall be
48 deposited in such account. The commissioner shall use moneys in such
49 account for the purpose of developing forest management plans to
50 guide the harvest of timber from state forests and state wildlife
51 management areas and for all reasonable direct expenses relating to
52 the administration and operation of such plans in such state forests
53 and wildlife management areas. The commissioner may accept, on
54 behalf of the Department of Environmental Protection, any gifts,

55 donations, loans or bequests for the purposes of depositing such funds
56 into the timber harvesting revolving account. Any such loan from a
57 nonprofit organization qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal
58 Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal
59 revenue code of the United States, as amended from time to time, shall
60 be repaid from such account not later than two years after entering
61 such loan agreement or at a time and upon terms agreed upon by the
62 commissioner and such nonprofit organization. The account shall not
63 exceed one hundred thousand dollars. Any remaining proceeds shall
64 be deposited in the General Fund.

65 (d) The commissioner may rent state forest property and buildings
66 thereon under his or her jurisdiction for a period not exceeding
67 twenty-five years, provided any lease for such property and building
68 for a term of more than ten years shall be subject to the review and
69 approval of the State Properties Review Board. The proceeds of such
70 sales, rentals and any receipts resulting from management of the state
71 forests, or from reimbursements from other state departments or state
72 institutions, shall be deposited in the General Fund in accordance with
73 the provisions of section 4-32. Expenditures incurred by the
74 commissioner for the protection, management and development of the
75 forests, the preparation and marketing of forest products and the
76 acquisition of land for the extension and completion of the state forests
77 as provided in section 23-21 may be paid with moneys appropriated
78 from the General Fund.

79 (e) The provisions of this section shall not apply to land owned or
80 managed by the state on which forest resource management measures
81 may be restricted by deed, statute, or incompatible use. As used in this
82 section, woodland means land owned or managed by a state agency
83 and stocked with forest tree species not less than six hundred stems
84 per acre and at least one year old.

<p>This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:</p>
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Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	23-20
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ENV *Joint Favorable C/R* FIN

FIN *Joint Favorable Subst.*